

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083718

EXDIS - FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, AMGT, AFS

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF REGIONAL AID ATTACHE

1. AMBASSADOR CLUVERIUS AND DEPT HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED INFORMALLY BY AID THAT REGIONAL REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ATTACHE BASED IN BAHRAIN IS TO BE REPLACED IN COMING MONTHS AS WILL HIS COLLEAGUES COVERING OTHER REGIONS. IN DEPARTMENT'S SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH AID, IT IS CLEAR THAT IF THE GULF REGIONAL POSITION IS TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUE, PRESENT INCUMBENT WILL BE REPLACED. RECRUITMENT FROM OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. AID ANTICIPATES REPLACEMENT WOULD BE IN THE AREA SOMETIME DURING THE SUMMER AND THAT PRESENT INCUMBENT COULD STAY ON UNTIL THAT TIME IF HE WISHED.

2. SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS ON UTILITY OF THIS REGIONAL

ACTIVITY, DEPT IS INCLINED TO CONSIDER IT A USEFUL MECHANISM FOR FACILITATING FLOW OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY TO PERSIAN GULF AND OTHER NON-AID RECIPIENT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON UTILITY OF THIS POSITION IN FORMING DEPT'S POSITION ON WHETHER PRESENT INCUMBENT SHOULD BE REPLACED.

3. RELATED QUESTION IS WHETHER REPLACEMENT SHOULD ALSO

OPERATE FROM MANAMA OR WHETHER HE WOULD BETTER SERVE PROGRAM NEEDS IF BASED IN WASHINGTON BUT TRAVELLING FREQUENTLY TO AREA. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, WHEN POSITION WAS ESTABLISHED (PRESENT INCUMBENT ARRIVED OCTOBER 1976) THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING IN DEPT AND AREA POSTS THAT COST EFFECTIVENESS IN OPERATING SUCH A POSITION FROM THE GULF DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OVER PERHAPS A ONE YEAR TRIAL PERIOD. SINCE PRESENT INCUMBENT WILL NOT BE REPLACED UNTIL THIS COMING SUMMER IN ANY EVENT, GIVEN THE SUMMER TRADITIONAL SLOW-DOWN IN THE AREA, THE "ONE YEAR" TRIAL WILL HAVE, TO A LARGE DEGREE, BEEN COMPLETED FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS YOU MIGHT HAVE AS TO RELEVANT MERIT OF BASING THIS POSITION IN WASHINGTON, TO CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN IT IN MANAMA, OR BASING IT IN ANOTHER GULF COUNTRY SUCH AS KUWAIT AND UAE, WHERE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING REIMBURSE-ABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS MIGHT BE MORE PROMISING THAN IN BAHRAIN.

4. FROM INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH AID, WE ARE UNDER
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IMPRESSION AID IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR THIS PROGRAM AND STRONGLY INCLINED TO REPLACE INCUMBENT WITH AN OFFICER OPERATING OUT OF A GULF POST WHICH IN ABSENCE OF A BETTER ALTERNATIVE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE BAHRAIN.

5. PLEASE SLUG REPLY FOR M AND NEA ONLY.
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